

# THE OBSERVER



VOLUME 69

March 28, 2002

Issue 10

## Habitat Builds In South Carolina

When many students packed their bags to spend their spring break relaxing in the southern hemisphere, 18 Saint Joseph's College students and two faculty sponsors prepared themselves for a solid week of work for Habitat for Humanity. For students dedicated to helping others, there was no better way to spend their spring break.

"The College first became interested in Habitat in the early 90's when students volunteered relief efforts after a tragic hurricane swept through Florida," said Fred Berger, the Saint Joseph's College chapter advisor. Students also helped with relief efforts after the floods of 1994. From there interest grew. "Students saw this and asked if there wasn't more they could do."

Since the founding of the college chapter, Saint Joe volunteers have worked at ten affiliate building sites across the country and three disaster

areas nationwide as well as local building sites. Last summer they helped break ground at the county work site on North Melville St., Rensselaer. As has

Sara Post  
Editor-in-Chief

been tradition for the last several years, Berger organized a group to participate in Habitat's annual Collegiate Challenge.

This year the group traveled to the Sea Island, South Carolina affiliate site where students worked on the final houses in a Habitat subdivision named Murraywood.

The volunteers worked closely with both Habitat and Americorps advisors in all stages of production. In just a week they added tresses and a roof to one house and framed another. They also helped in the final stages of a foundation and

cleared lots for final inspections.

"The work was hard," said senior Mandy Meyers, "but I would do it all over again. Dedicating my time to help others was a satisfying experience."

Professor Nesselrode, one of the group's advisors, has always found the Habitat

trips to be rewarding. "It is so humbling to see new houses being constructed for deserving people," she said. "I truly saw God's work being done."

For sophomore Dannielle Pruett the trip was a welcomed break from the routine world. "One of the most positive aspects of the trip was just being able to spend a week in a Christian atmosphere," she said. "It felt good to

do service for others and it was inspiring to know that there are people out there willing to give of themselves to help those in need."

The highlight of the week for many was meeting the Holmes', a partner family. The family of four recently received the news that they will be moving into a habitat house, most likely one the SJC group helped build during their stay.

"Meeting (the family) was really the cornerstone of the week," said junior, Nick Schafer. "Building the house was one thing, but the people

we did this for makes all the difference. [The father] almost cried he was so happy. The work we did seemed so small for such gratitude but knowing we brought such happiness to others lives was absolutely the best part of the trip," he said.



Junior Nick Schafer works on the framing of a house for Habitat.



Volunteers take a break from roofing to admire their handy work. During the course of the week the group put up tresses and laid shingles.

## SJC ADDS ART MAJOR TO CURRICULUM

Saint Joseph's College is expanding horizons with their academic programs. Next fall the college will be adding two more majors to its curriculum.

Beginning with the 2002-2003 academic year students will be accepted into the art major and art education major programs, to be offered for the first time in SJC history.

Professor Bonnie Zimmer, head of the art department, has sought to have an art major added to the college's list of majors for years.

"With SJC being a liberal arts college, a visual art major is especially important to complete our curriculum," commented Zimmer. "I'm so thrilled to have this long-term goal come to fruition, and I'm really looking for-

ward to the challenge of this program."

The 36-credit hour art major and 50-credit art education major will not only utilize already offered courses, but will feature a wider range.

In order to implement and offer new courses to incoming students the art department will be invit-

Sara Post  
Editor-in-Chief

ing local talents and experts to teach their trades. Two area artists have al-

ready accepted. Bob Adams of Lafayette, who's work was recently on display in the Prairie Arts Council's Lilian Fendig Art Gallery, will be teaching a drawing class. Glass artist David Herriott, who owns Herriott

Stained Glass in Kentland, will be offering a class in stained glass techniques.

Zimmer hopes to involve the community in the growing program. Evening classes will be open not only to students, but to anyone from the community who is interested. She also hopes to engage the students in the activities of the Prairie Art Council. They will be given the opportunity to have their work on exhibition in the gallery or to volunteer in the community arts programs either through the PAC or the youth center.

"We already have students committed to entering the program," Zimmer said, "I hope from here we only continue to grow and expand."



Professor Bonnie Zimmer works with her Ceramics 1 class. Zimmer, who has been seeking the addition of an art major, was happy to see her goal come to fruition.

### NEWS

Habitat Travels to South Carolina

The Band Marches in Chicago

### FEATURES

Puma Profile: Joe Small

Springtime in New York

### SPORTS

Puma Sports in Short

Softball: Swinging for Success

### OPINION

Letters to the Editor

ET. CETERA  
Puma Poetry

## Letter to the Editor

*Spineless: Not Such A Great Day to Be a Puma!*

A. Concerned Puma

I am a very concerned upperclassman. In the last three years I have noticed that fewer and fewer people are getting involved around campus. Now I am not attacking those few who are involved, but it seems to me that the same 75 to 100 people do EVERYTHING on this campus. True, SJC is small, but that is no excuse for amount of apathy that has this college in a chokehold.

When Dr. Shannon gave his famous "It's a Great Day to Be a Puma" speech, it truly was a time when we could be proud of our school. Since then student apathy has skyrocketed. I have heard my classmates complain about everything from the way classes are scheduled to the changes in various policies over the last few years, but many will not even go and talk to the administration or SA. It is well known that the students of SJC have opinions, but very few people actually do anything about them.

Saint Joseph's College wasn't always the lackluster model of Generation X though. Anyone who has walked past Professor Kingman's door has seen the archived pictures from SJC's past. This campus used to be active. If the students were that upset about something, then they put up signs, picketed or held sit-ins. Now

I'm not calling for protests, but the sad reality is that modern-day Pumas would rather sit in their rooms and drown brain cells in beer than stop complaining for one second, get off their Nintendo 64 butts, and do something!

When the administration decided to implement housing by GPA students supposedly were in an uproar. But what did they do? Did I happen to miss the petition, or the banners of protest? Was I gone when they had the sit-ins, or when a group of students went to the senate? The sad answer is No, I did not miss any of these events, because they never happened. People complained, but that is where it stopped.

Isn't Core supposed to teach us critical thinking? Has it really succeeded? For example I have been involved in student government in the past and it amazes me that in that time I almost never saw a non-representative at any of those meetings. Contrary to popular belief, students are welcome at all of the Senate meetings. But again that would mean that Pumas would have to exert a little effort.

Over the last two weeks I have heard several of my colleagues say that they do not like SJC anymore. All they want to do is make it through to

graduation and then get out of here. To those Pumas who feel that way, I say, "Shame on you!"

SJC has its problems, but instead of running from them we should try to address them. I for one love Saint Joseph's College and want to make it better for future generations of Pumas. I understand it's hard to find time, and to make changes. But tell that to those select few who are trying to do it by themselves now. Those select 75 to 100 people, who are trying to make SJC better. They need everyone's help.

Therefore, I challenge my fellow Pumas, DON'T PASS THE BUCK. If something bothers you, then stop whining about it and DO something. If you feel that you are not being represented in the Senate, then go to the meetings, or run yourself next year. When you have a problem, write to the paper, make signs, do something to show that you have pride in our school. For students SJC is more than a job, for many of us it is HOME for four years. We have to protect our home, and if it isn't something that we want it to be then we should make it what we want.

"The Buck Stops Here!" We all must do our part to make sure SJC is all that it can be.

## Observer Staff

### Editors in Chief

Mandy Meyers  
Sara Post

### News Editors

Sara Post  
Nicholas Schafer

### Features Editor

Susan Huss

### Opinion Editor

Mandy Meyers

### Sports Editor

Melissa Genova

### Et Cetera Editor

Nicholas Schafer

### Reporters

Kelli Bridges  
Katie Davet  
Colleen Flynn  
Melissa Genova  
Susan Huss  
Mandy Meyers  
Bridget Newman  
Sara Post  
Mike Potts  
Tony Salati  
Nick Schafer  
Becky Scherer  
Erik Steffen

### Faculty Facilitator

Dr. Charles Kerlin

### Publisher

Dr. Ernest Mills III

## Happiness and the Fish

Chris Repp

We've all heard p.c. (politically correct) talk, courteous sounding language, "black is beautiful," but how many really believe in this, or at least respect those for whom these words were formed? If my skin isn't black but my favorite color is, what is wrong with that? This might not be well known, but there are quite a few people out there who choose to follow their own paths and select radically different styles of clothing, makeup, and faith. I will not, how-

ever, give any of the common names that these people have, because I believe labels are prejudicial and are better left out of society.

I remember reading in *The Observer* a while back a column on advice for freshman. One item that really caught my eye was a tip "...not to dress like it's Halloween every day." Now was that a piece of advice, or just someone saying "I don't like you for who you are, so change"....? In addition, I did

not happen to see any advice saying, "be yourself as long as you follow a higher calling."

Something rather sad in society today is that conformity is out of control. Everyone dresses practically the same. Everyone looks alike. Everyone acts alike. Although I by no means mean that people sharing similar tastes is wrong, but the extent to which you see conformity today is outrageous. Aren't we all different? I hope so.

### THINGS THAT MAKE YOU GO HMM....

Have you ever noticed that when it rains, the women of Halas have to find their paddles and life preservers? You need a boat in order to get to the side walk and the street. Does anyone else see this as a safety hazard?

When did Security become a taxi service? I would love to be dropped off at the Core building when it's raining or snowing. Obviously I must have missed the memo on that one.

Anyone wanting  
to voice their  
opinion or  
complaint email  
Mandy at  
mme2712@saintjoe.edu

On behalf of  
The Observer  
staff, we'd  
like to wish  
you and your  
family a very  
Happy  
Easter!

# Marching Band Joins St. Patrick's Day Celebration

On Saturday, March 16<sup>th</sup> the Saint Joseph's College Marching Puma's entered the St. Patrick's Day Parade, in down town Chicago. The event began around noon and lasted until the late afternoon. This year's parade was covered on nation wide television with special attention paid to the President's participation in the festivities.

This is the ninth year that the band has marched in this parade under the direction of Professor Robert

Theil. The parade is a fun event for all, but the band's involvement also serves to get SJC out in the public eye.

"It gives us television exposure nationwide, except the TV coverage stops at 2:00 which is about when we stepped off. So we didn't make the big time this year! It also gives us exposure to prospective students in the Chicago area. I think it let's

people know that we are here. We don't get a lot of exposure so the more that we can get the name of the college out there, the better for everyone. The parade also gives us another contact with alumni who help support the band and the college," commented Theil.

The 2002 St. Patrick's Day Parade benefited from additional energy and attendance because of President Bush's visit to the Windy City. Senior

self, is fun to experience."

Sophomore John Ligda also enjoyed the day. "It was definitely a memorable experience! The wind off the lake sure made it cold, and standing around for three hours with nothing to do didn't help. But, it was great to see so many people cheering for us. While I didn't get a chance to see the

President and of course the energy of downtown Chicago on St. Patrick's Day it-

because of the large crowds and the people cheering along the whole parade route. The two parades that I like the most are the Chicago's St. Patrick's Day Parade and the Disney Main Street Parade. The worst part of [this]



SJC Band members wait in the cold for the parade to start.

Nicholas Schafer  
Editor



Puma's of all ages march with Pride.



The Parade may be long, but SJC marchers enjoyed the

parade, the time I spent with my friends will forever be implanted in my mind."

The SJC Band marches in only a few parades. Professor Theil commented, "Actually, parades are probably my least favorite thing to do. [But] The Chicago parade is different

parade is standing there for 3 hours waiting for the parade to begin. Actually the parade begins at noon but by the time they got to number 93 it was 2:00. I feel sorry for the people with number 180 and higher because I imagine they didn't start until 4:00. I hope that we are never that high in the lineup again."

The Saint Joseph's College Band will revert to a concert band for its upcoming concert on Sunday, April 28<sup>th</sup> at the Richard F. Scharf Alumni Memorial Fieldhouse. They will also play for SJC's commencement on May 5<sup>th</sup>.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

Friday, March 29 NO CLASS

Monday, April 1 NO CLASS

Tuesday, April 2 Classes Resume

Tuesday – Friday, April 2-5  
Registration in the Ball Room

**All those interested in joining The Observer should contact Nick Schafer at nsf3156**

## SJC Students Build Futures In South Carolina



While their friends were preparing for a week of fun in the sun, 18 Saint Joseph's College students packed their bags for the "Sea Island Collegiate Challenge" in South Carolina. The SJC volunteers for Habitat for Humanity spent the week working with a volunteer group from Boston College. For many this trip was their first Habitat experience, but for other it served as the capstone to a four year service record with Habitat.



# MELISSA GENOVA ROCKS OUT AT CUP O' JOE

She has already written around 50 songs, and she is not even 20 years old. And not only is she a songwriter, but also a singer and guitarist.

Sophomore Melissa Genova, an English creative writing major, made her Saint Joseph's College debut on Friday, March 15, in Cup O' Joe. If you did not get a chance to see her, you missed out.

"Melissa is extremely talented," English and Core lecturer Maia Kingman said. "What blows me away is her guitar playing. She doesn't just play standard rhythm guitar—she uses finger picking techniques to put together rich and intricate melodies."

Though Genova has played in coffee shops and at open microphone nights numerous times before, this was the first time she has had the whole set to herself. She said she was excited, but not nervous.

"I love being able to perform for people and entertain them," she said. "I thought the audience was great and very supportive. It was really cool because I saw my roommates singing along to a couple of my songs."

Genova said she has been writing songs and "little ditties" ever since she can remember, probably starting at the age of five. As for guitar, she only took lessons for a year, but she has been playing since seventh grade. She said she teaches herself and learns mostly by watching other guitar players.

"I've always loved music and loved performing," Genova said. "It's so cliché for me to say this, but songwriting really is a type of therapy for me. It's a really good way for me to channel what I'm thinking and get things out that I couldn't say another way. Writing music is a great way for me to channel my thoughts, but even playing or singing is great because I'll just sit around and play my guitar for three hours, and everything that's bothering me just goes away. The reason I picked up guitar is because in fifth and sixth grade, I started getting into Smashing Pumpkins, and I wanted to be able to be in a band. I had lyrics and melodies that I had written, and I wanted something to accompany them."

At her performance, which filled Cup O' Joe with students as well as some teachers, Genova played acoustic and electric guitar. She played a few covers, but mostly songs she wrote herself.

"I was very impressed with her guitar and singing, and the fact that the majority of her songs were her own," Genova's roommate Shenley Roberts said. "It's one thing for a performer to be able to sing other art-

Susan Huss  
Features Editor



Pat Shannon accompanies Melissa Genova at her performance.

ists' songs, but Melissa writes her own songs. I loved the song Jillian that she did, and I also like Tristan. Jillian is a beautiful song, and Tristan was a song I related to

because it was about relationships not working out."

Genova's other roommate, Kim Roberts, agreed with her sister that Genova is a talented songwriter.

"I really like Sleepy Head," she said. "It's my favorite song. I've had it in my head for days! It's just a really beautiful song with great lyrics to go with it. Melissa is the perfect roommate. She doesn't practice all that much, but even if she did, I wouldn't mind, because I love listening to her play."

Genova plays for her friends quite often, but they were still excited to get the chance to see her play at Cup O' Joe. One such friend was senior Mike Potts, who "opened" for Genova by doing his Elvis impression.

"I have seen her play before," Potts said. "The only difference was that she performed more songs than before. She did not seem a

bit nervous! I think [she is good at singing, songwriting, and playing], but I'm most impressed or inspired with the songwriting, probably because I enjoy writing so much."

Genova's cousin, senior Amanda Kiral, agreed that Genova handled the spotlight well.

"I was definitely impressed," she said. "It takes a lot of guts and talent to get in front of peers. She's comfortable in all settings, and she didn't seem nervous. [I especially liked] that she talked in between songs. It gave the audience the chance to relate to her and her songs."

Genova, who likes to listen to artists and groups such as Ani DiFranco, Jewel, Fiona Apple, Placebo, and of course Smashing Pumpkins, hopes to join a punk or emo band. But for now, she is enjoying flying solo.

"It was really cool to perform in front of everyone," she said. "Hopefully they respected my music. I had a couple of people come up and tell me they liked my songs. It's just a great feeling."

Genova sees herself in a career in music or acting. Do her fans think she will make it to the big time?

"Yes, she is so motivated and talented," Kiral said. "Nothing will stand in her way."

are people there from many different cultures. It is great to be around that."

After being there for a week, Walters felt right at home. "By the end of the week, I almost felt local, and even had a couple people ask me for directions. One of those times, I was able to give an answer," he said.

As energized and upbeat as New York appears on the surface, the group found that a depressing dark layer lurks under its skin. Ground Zero, a massive pit of rubble and destruction, will ever mark that infamous September day in American History. A visit to what was once the center of trade in the United States has been forever changed.

"Visiting Ground Zero was one of the highlights on my trip," Bridges said. "I was there a year and a half ago and to see it now was very strange. Just being at Ground Zero was eerie."

Despite the somber part of the trip at Ground Zero, the group still had fun. "I love New York and had a blast while I was there," Bridges said.

Whelan agreed that the trip was worthwhile, and he hopes to have many opportunities like this trip. "The trip to New York was the best spring break I have ever had," he said. "It was definitely worth the trip, and it is on my list of things to do again."



SJC students enjoy sight seeing in New York City during their Spring Break.



The group takes time out of their travels to sit down to a meal together.

Ground Zero: A damaged building with netting on it lies in the background while a September 11 memorial sits in the foreground.



## Spring Time in the Big Apple

Katie Davet  
Reporter

What was spring break like in the New York City in the wake of September 11? Seven Saint Joseph's College students and a faculty member had the opportunity to find out.

Senior Christine Malnarick, juniors Jenny Sherrow, Justin Walters, and Wendy Sidener, sophomores Stephen Kraemer and Kelli Bridges, and freshman John Whelan had the opportunity to visit New York for a seven day spring break experience. Computer systems analyst David DeLauro organized the trip. Times Square, MTV Total Request Live Studios, ABC and NBC studios, the David Letterman show and—of course—Ground Zero were just some of the sites they visited. They did all of this for approximately \$300.

The students boarded a flight at O'Hare Airport and landed at LaGuardia Airport in New York on a non-stop flight. After arriving at their hotel, the group began its adventure. Purchasing a week long metro pass, the students were ready to go, and go they did.

The travelers were allowed to go around the city in small groups and see what they wanted to see. "Generally we would split up into separate groups or go individually so we could all see exactly what we wanted to see, and practice our skill at navigating the subway and streets," Walters said.

Times Square, with all its glitter and glamour, in the heart of Manhattan, was one of the highlights of the New York experience. "My favorite part about the trip was Times Square, which is very awesome," Bridges said.

While in NYC, the group had a chance to experience and see many things. Some students got the opportunity to attend the Broadway show Oklahoma. They also took a trip to the major networks, such as ABC, NBC, and CBS. Quite a few shows are broadcast from New York, like the Today Show, 20/20, Dateline, Saturday Night Live, and the David Letterman Show.

The students were struck by the vast differences between New Yorkers. "Another thing I like about New York is the diversity," Bridges said. "There

## Career Center Connections

Kelli Bridges  
Reporter

### A round of applause, please!

The Career Center and Students In Free Enterprise (SIFE) would like to thank everyone who attended the first annual Etiquette Dinner & Style Show on Thursday March 14, 2002. There were over 100 students, 13 alumni, and about 15 faculty and staff members in attendance. The attendance rate was outstanding, and the event would not have happened without student participation, so thank you again. We would also like to thank Steve Santo for hosting the Etiquette Dinner; Steve did a wonderful job explaining proper dining etiquette, the dos and don'ts, etc. We would also like to thank dining services for excellent service. A special thanks goes out to the models and faculty paparazzi members.

For those of you who could not attend the event, here is a brief agenda of the evening: the first half of the evening was the Etiquette Dinner with Steve Santo as the host. The second half of the evening was a Style Show hosted by Barb Robertson. Ten students were models for this event: Jessica Barnard, Beth Jerzyk, Lynn Rainey, Polly Rainey, Maribel Licea, Ryan Myszak, John Green, James Perkins, Scott Morgan, and Matthew Carpenter. The models walked down a runway as paparazzi members (played by faculty) snapped pictures of the models. Paparazzi members were Dottie Collura, John Keller, Marge McIlwain, Steve Brady, Rob Pfaff, and Walter Scherb. Derek Dabrowiak, an '01 graduate, was the DJ, introducing the models and giving a brief bio of each model. Barb Robertson then talked about what was wrong with the way the models were dressed. For example, Matthew Carpenter was wearing an earring and dressed for an interview. This is a no no. Scott Morgan was the "joker" of the event, dressed in a plaid suit with flame printed shoes. The evening was educational, yet fun. A second annual Etiquette Dinner & Style Show is in the works for next year: If you have any ideas or suggestions, please drop Barb Robertson or Kelli Bridges an e-mail.

### Wanted: Jobless Seniors

Seniors, are you having a tough time finding a job? Does it seem like no one is hiring? Are you afraid you are not qualified enough? Then come



Scott Morgan poses for the camera after strutting his stuff.



Barb Robertson addresses crowd.



Guests of the Etiquette Dinner enjoy the show.

meet with alumni who have been in your shoes, and you can discuss these issues. On Thursday, April 4, 2002, the Career Center and SIFE will be hosting a panel of alumni to speak about Job Search in a down economy. There will be four or five alumni, who graduated from 1989-1991, on the panel. They were searching for jobs during a similar economy to the one we are experiencing now. The panel will answer questions students have about finding a job when the economy is depressed. They will also be prepared to tell students what they need to do to set themselves apart from the competition. Barb Robertson will facilitate the panel discussion and offer topics for discussion.

## Puma Profile: Joe Small, Making it His Own Way

Colleen Flynn  
Reporter



Have you ever imagined what it would be like to be the only individual with a handicap on a college campus? Or what it would be like to spend your life without the use of your legs? Joe Small, a twenty-two year old junior, deals with these issues every day.

Small is from Wheatfield. He lives with his parents and his older brother, who is planning to move to Connecticut to start a new job. Small decided to attend Saint Joseph's College because he felt that this school offered him academic possibilities that other schools did not provide.

He said, "The one thing that got my attention about St. Joe was the fact that I could start taking classes that deal with my major my freshman year. I did not have to wait until my sophomore or junior year to take [these classes]. I also like the hands on experience in the different

activities that deal with my major, which is mass communications."

Small also enjoys the fact that SJC has smaller class sizes than larger universities and that the professors are easy to approach. His hobbies include playing basketball, and his love for singing is quite evident. His favorite type of music is country. Small is currently a DJ for 90.5 Puma Rock and hopes to pursue a career in this field. He describes himself as being easy-going, caring, and helpful. However, he does admit that he has a bad habit of procrastinating, similar to all college students.

Small feels that SJC has provided him with the proper accessibility that is needed for a student such as himself. However, he does feel that there are a few problems with wheelchair accessibility on campus.

"I can't get up to the second floor of Halleck," Small said. "The elevator only goes up to the Ballroom. I would probably have something done to where I can get up to the second floor of Halleck without a problem. It would avoid [me] having to call someone down to meet me somewhere. I am kind of hesitant in doing that sometimes. I don't know why. Also, the wintertime can be pretty difficult, when we get a big snowstorm. If a certain place is not plowed well enough, I cannot get to my destination, or it is very difficult."

In a positive light, Small has never felt any discrimination from his peers; he describes his friends as great and always able to lend a helping hand. He does appreciate when fellow students assist him by opening doors. However, he feels that certain things are better done on his own. Small revealed that it does anger him when able individuals park in handicapped parking spots. He said that it angers him even more when authorities do not correct this behavior.

Small feels that there are some misconceptions about him. He said that he is willing to answer any questions people might have about why he is in a wheelchair. Sometimes he feels that individuals judge him based on his exterior.

"Some people look at me and think, 'Oh, he's handicapped. I don't want anything to do with him,'" Small said. "They seem to judge me before they get to know me. They seem to be afraid to talk to me. I always say, 'Don't look at a person from the outside. Look at them from what's inside, [because] it's what's on the inside that counts!'"

# Softball : Swinging for Success

Bridget Newman  
Reporter

The Puma softball season is currently underway. As of March 18, the team was 9-11. Freshman Jen Willig of Lombard, Illinois is proud to be a member of the team. "We have been playing consistently," she commented. "Sometimes we could play better, but overall we're doing good."

Senior Jen Varner, who hails from Mt. Prospect, Illinois, shares Willig's sentiments. "We're doing good," Varner noted. "We are improving every game." One reason for the team's success may be the team's commitment to motivat-

ing each other. Varner, a veteran of the Puma Softball program notes that those who share positions really seem dedicated to helping each other.

Looking at the team roster, it might

---

"We are improving every game," said Jen Varner.

---

seem odd to note that there are three pitchers, three catchers, more than enough outfielders, and so on. When asked about inter-team competition, Willig comments that it just doesn't ex-

ist. "We all get equal playing team. Coach usually plays 16 or 17 of the 19 players per game." In addition, it is a great asset to a team that has players who are flexible enough to play multiple positions.

The team has had to deal with minor mistakes that can cost a game. Nonetheless, though, the team has been fairly successful. Over

spring break the team traveled to Florida where they finished 4-6. The 18-hour bus trip was an ideal chance for the team to bond. Varner noted that the trip was fun overall, especially be-

cause the upperclassmen had the opportunity to get to know their freshman teammates.

One highlight of the trip to Florida was the win against Lewis University, who is the well-known softball rival of the Pumas. The win was the first against Lewis in four years. The team is looking for a repeat victory over Lewis at the home game on April 6, which will count as a conference game.

Like any sports team, the Puma softball players just want to win and continually improve. After 20 games last year the team was 8-12, as compared to this year's 9-11 record. Improvement is undoubtedly the path they have taken.



## Fan Base: Having Fun in the Sun???



If anyone has a photo that they would like to see in "Fan Base" either drop them off in the Observer Mailbox located in the third floor of the Halleck Center, or scan them and email them to [Mgg3598@saintjoe.edu](mailto:Mgg3598@saintjoe.edu).

Photos will be returned.

During the few days last week when it was actually warm enough to go outside with just a sweater on, and students did not have to

trudge through/fall in/get pushed in/freeze their behinds off in the snow, students found it amusing to go to the local Renssealer park and play on the

jungle gym, as was a tradition for them during their younger years when the sun was out. Although the first few days of spring have recently "sprung"

upon us, the weather has been teasing Rensselaer otherwise. That is why Kristi, Melissa, Kristin and Lisa decided to take advantage of the warm weather.

## The Puma Sports in Short...



*Looking at the season with a Bang, Kick, Whack, Whoosh and A-Par.*



**Golf:** They SJC men's golf team placed twelfth at the Lafayette Golf Club in Falls of Rough Kentucky last weekend. A score of 639 was made in a two-round event. The team was led by Erick Peschke with a score of 150 and Ryan Messner with a score of 157.

**Men's Tennis:** At a Kerry Seward Invite at Wabash College, the men's tennis team finished in

eighth place in an eight-team event. Sixth place at #1 singles was Mark Grueter with 1-1.

**Softball:** The team improved their standings 14-12 overall over the weekend. They currently have a standing of 3-1 in the Great Lakes Valley Conference. The softball team won 3 of the four away games over the week-

end. In the first game, they won 7-4. The second game was won with a score of 3-2. Last Sunday, they won 4-1, but lost that night 2-1.

**Baseball:** The baseball team also had a successful weekend. They improved their standings 15-10-2. They are currently 3-3 in the Great Lakes Valley Con-

ference, and won 2 of the 3 games over the weekend. They lost the first game on Saturday 2-1. Steve Furtek had the home run. That night, however, they won 8-4. Last Sunday, the SJC team won 4-0, with Andy Augsburg, Larry Poleski and Jimmy Cartwright pitching. Tony Schmid, Mike Eagen, Ryan Mysak and Adam Minth scored the four runs.

# Puma Profile: Aaron Ryan Messner

Rebecca Scherer  
Reporter

Aaron Ryan Messner has been playing golf for about 12 years, and showcases his talents on the SJC men's golf team. He was recruited from Benton Central High School near Fowler, and currently studies marketing at SJC.

Messner has been coached by Doug Knutson for the past two years, and thinks that he's a good coach who takes care of "the different personalities of the game on our team."

Another important aspect of the team is their ability to get along. "We're a really close team. One of the best things is that we say whatever we want but we keep a positive attitude," said Messner.

The SJC golf team is currently fifth in the conference, and according to

Messner are only 12 shots out of lead. His average shoot is for this season is 75.4, and last year it was 76.

One thing he commented on was that the team was very young, and they lacked senior players. It does not mean, however, that the team lacks talent. "The [freshmen] are really good. They are keeping with it and fit into the team karma," said Messner. "I expect everyone to have a good spring season, and I'd be really disappointed if not."

Messner does feel that they have a shot at regionals, but would like to focus on regionals before national competition even becomes a subject.

Messner calls himself "goal oriented" and strives to overcome the obstacles that stand in his way, especially when it has to do with the fact that he is only a sophomore in college.

## Ryan Messner Stats

Sport: Golf

Year: Sophomore

High school attended:  
Benton Central

Major: Marketing

Average: 75.4

## The Puma Track and Field Results from March 23

SJC's men's track and field team took home the glories at Michael J. Vallone/Class of 1960 Track & Field Complex on Mar. 23. It was held on SJC's campus. The total amount of points was 143.

The women's track and field team also shared in the victor, placing second with 143 points.

Individually, Natalie Salinas placed first in the discus and the hammer with 31.76 meters and 38.44 meters. Josh Hughes also took home a first place for the high jump. He had mark of 6'07" and 12.79 meters.

Becca Niziolek was a top finisher as well. She placed third with the 100 meters in 13.17, and third in the 200 with 27.38.

Other top women's track and field finishers were:

Erin Powers: 5th/100/13.57  
& 5th/200/ 28.02  
Fallon Lane: 4th/200/27.78  
Robyn Gretzinger: 4th/400/1:06.46  
Teresa Gaura: 3rd/800/2:38.55  
Michelle Grubb: 5th/800/2:47.96  
Ashley Bryant: 1st/1500/5:53.20  
Alexis Virtue: 1st/5000/18:50.01  
Jaymi Hartzler: 3rd/5000/19:21.01  
Shana Wyatt: 4th/5000/20:21.04  
Sarah Flory: 5th/5000/20:48.05  
Juli Myers: 7th/100 hurdles/23.14  
& 4th 400 hurdles 1:11.74

Melissa Kleinmaus: 1st/400/hurdles  
1:06.75 & 6th/high jump/  
4'4" & 4th/shot put/8.14  
meters

Jamie Marshall: 3rd/400/hurdles/  
1:11.44

Dani Ramirez: 1st/3000/steeple-  
chase 13:20.57

Women's 4x100/2nd/57.54

Women's 4x400/1st/4:13.32

Lindsay Bridwell: 3rd/high jump/  
4'10

4th javelin 17.22 meters

Anne Balmes: 1st/pole vault/9'06

3rd javelin 20.24 meters

Amy Harrell: 3rd/pole vault/6'06

Lyndi Cruikshank: 2nd/long jump/  
4.97 meters

3rd triple jump 9.88 meters

Natalie Salinas: 3rd/shot put/8.58  
meters

Kristen Gandurski: 5th discus/  
27.12 meters

### Men's Track and Field Results: Individuals

Roger Driver: 2nd/200/21.96

2nd 400 50.27

Eric White: 6th/200/24.22

4th/400/54.78

Jeff Regan 7th/200/24.46

5th/shot put/7.84 meters

5th/discus/23.16 meters

4th/javelin/32.30 meters

Mario DiRuzza: 9th/200/28.29

4th shot put 8.22 meters

6th discus 22.50 meters

Brett Heinz: 1st/800/2:00.22

Chris McHugh: 2nd/800/2:05.76

Matt Stout : 4th/5000/16:21.20

Dan Westphal: 7th/5000/16:43.50

Jason Johnson: 3rd/110 hurdles/  
15.85

3rd/400 hurdles/1:03.53

1st/long jump/7.09 m

1st/javelin/46.02 m

Tim Newman: 1st/3000/steeplechase  
10:00.73

Dan Shiplov: 2nd/3000 steeplechase  
10:34.79

Ben Zimmer: 4th/3000steeplechase/  
10:56.88

Men's 4x100/2nd/44.45

Men's 4x400/1st/3:30.40

Maurice Perkins: 2nd/long jump/  
7.03

2nd/triple jump/12.60 meters

Josh Hughes: 3rd/long jump/7.01 m

Andy Cool: 1st/shot put/12.70 m

2nd/hammer/38.44 m

Taylor Treesh: 2nd/shot pu/12.17 m

1st/discus/42 m

3rd/hammer/38.30 m

7th/javelin/27.18 m

Phil Lee: 3rd/shot put/11.22 m

4th discus 27.92 meters

5th javelin 29.76 meters

Jeremy Freel: 3rd/discus40.52 m

1st hammer 41.40 meters

## Upcoming Events

Mar. 28

\* Softball AWAY Butler  
University 3 pm

Mar. 29

\* Softball HOME Northern  
Kentucky 3 pm

\* Baseball AWAY Kentucky  
Wesleyan noon

\* Men's Tennis AWAY  
Southern Illinois  
Edwardsville 3 pm

\* Men's Golf HOME St. Joe  
Open Curtis Creek

\* Women's Golf HOME St.  
Joe Open Curtis Creek

Mar. 30

\* Softball HOME India-  
napolis 1 pm

\* Baseball AWAY Kentucky  
Wesleyan noon

\* Track & Field AWAY  
Indianapolis 9 am

\* Men's Tennis AWAY  
Missouri-St. Louis 9 am

Apr. 2

\* Men's Tennis HOME  
Lewis University 3 pm

\* Baseball AWAY St.  
Francis 3 pm

Apr. 3

\* Baseball HOME India-  
napolis 2 pm

Apr. 4

\* Men's Golf AWAY Bethel  
College @ South Bend

Apr. 5

\* Men's Tennis HOME  
University of Indianapolis  
3 pm

Apr. 6

\* Softball HOME Lewis  
University 1 pm

\* Baseball HOME Oakland  
City University noon

\* Track & Field (April 5-  
6) AWAY Chicagoland  
Championships

\* Men's Tennis HOME  
Northern Kentucky  
University 9 am

Apr. 7

\* Softball AWAY Wiscon-  
sin Parkside noon

If anyone is interested in contributing their talents to the *Observer Sports* section, email Melissa, Mgg3598@saintjoe.edu

## JUST THINK ABOUT IT...

"To avoid criticism, do nothing,  
say nothing, and be nothing."  
-Elbert Hubbard

It requires wisdom to understand  
wisdom: the music is nothing if the  
audience is deaf."

-Walter Lippman

"The only true wisdom is in know-  
ing you know nothing."

-Socrates

"You can tell whether a man is  
clever by his answers. You can tell  
whether a man is wise by his ques-  
tions."

-Naguib, Mahfouz

"Carpe diem!"

Lat., "Seize the day"

-Horace, Odes

"Never believe that a few caring  
people can't change the world.  
For, indeed, that's all who ever  
have."

-Margaret Mead

courtesy of quoteland.com

## Tid-Bit of the Week

While known as a painter, sculptor,  
architect, and engineer -Leonard da  
Vinci was the first to record that the  
number of rings in the cross section  
of a tree trunk reveal its age. He also  
discovered that the width between  
the rings indicates the annual mois-  
ture.

Courtesy of uselessknowledge.com

## SJC Poet's Corner

## RESERVED

I read "RESERVED"  
I am a stake,  
Pierced through the heart of  
Mother Nature  
I stand solitary in the harsh  
winter  
Formidable and fearless  
Go ahead  
You can pass me in admira-  
tion  
This spot is not for you  
I hold it

For someone more impor-  
tant

## RESERVED

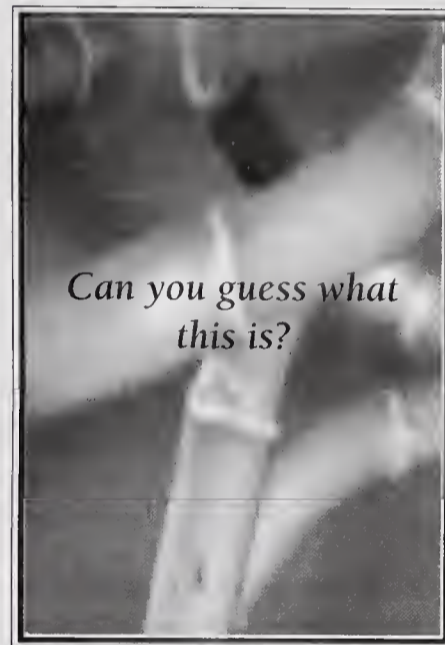
Don't you know what that  
means?  
It means your significance  
is limited by my power  
It means my chrome says  
more than you ever will  
It means my rusted screws  
and bent corners have au-  
thority over you  
That's right  
You can just pass me  
You're not good enough  
This spot is RESERVED.

~Bridget Newman

Untitled but Subtitled "For J.W."

You are like a plane, and I am  
sometimes afraid of it.  
You constantly reach great heights  
(and are out of my reach)  
but are always on the go and I can't  
keep track  
of you from the airport.  
You are as unpredictable as your  
beloved New York rain.  
It storms when it pleases,  
but can quickly become a breeze.  
My colored globe shows we might be  
far -  
You are blue on one side of the state,  
and I am a green midwest.  
But the one thing about you that is  
steady  
Is the fact you are always there for  
me.

By: Melissa Genova



Can you guess what  
this is?

bunbun

Vocabulary  
Boosters

**Vapid:** Pronunciation: /'va-  
ped/ adj : dull, lacking  
liveliness or force  
She was so vapid and  
obsessed with her own  
appearance, her reflec-  
tion was her best friend.

**Bloviate:** Pronunciation: /  
BLOW-vee-ayt/  
v : speak loudly, ver-  
bosely, and at great  
length, without saying  
much. "He was a very  
nice gentleman, but he  
does tend to bloviate."

**Stolid:** Pronunciation: /  
STOH-lid/ adj : unemo-  
tional, impassive, and  
unreactive "He was a  
gruff, stolid farmer from  
the Northeast."

**Cowabunga:** Pronunciation:  
/kou-uh-BUNG-guh/  
interj : slang. an expres-  
sion of amazement at  
something really great  
that has happened.  
"Cowabunga! What a  
great wave that was!"

**Caducity:** Pronunciation: /  
kuh-DO-si-tee/  
n : the state or condition  
of being weak, frail,  
senile, etc. "Consider-  
ing their relatively  
young age, the degree  
of caducity of the  
residents of the housing  
project was surprising."

courtesy of uselessknowledge.com

## Memo from Melissa: My Recommendations

The singer/songwriter era is once  
again En Vogue with a few leading  
men paving the way for the rest of  
us.

Pete Yorn made waves in the mu-  
sic industry with his CD  
"Musicforthemorningafter" last year.  
Because of the album's critical and  
commercial success, Columbia  
Records will be releasing a special  
edition double CD package. Fans of  
Pete Yorn and those curious about  
the innovative artist can pick up the  
double CD on April 23.

The first disc will be the standard  
"Musicforthemorningafter" release,  
but the second disk will include a  
newer version of the single "Strange  
Condition." There will also be cover  
tracks of The Smiths, Iggy Pop and  
David Bowie, and Bruce Springsteen.  
For computer nerds, the videos for  
"Life On A Chain", "For Nancy ('cos  
it already is)", "Strange Condition,"  
and "June" will be part of a CD ex-  
tra.

The original CD,  
"Musicforthemorningafter," made  
nearly every "Best Album of 2001"  
list, and it is one that has rarely left

rotation in my stereo  
since I bought it.  
With an abundance  
of Pop, nu-metal,  
and little emphasis  
on songwriting in the MTV world,  
Yorn has the possibility to bring back  
the singer-songwriter emphasis to  
popular music. Yorn rotates between  
mellow and  
gritty, and his  
song "Lose  
You" was also  
featured on  
the "Orange  
C o u n t y"  
soundtrack.

The CD  
opens with  
"Life on a  
Chain," which  
was also the  
first release off  
"Musicforthemorningafter." The  
acoustics of the song rotate from a  
distant, guitar/vocal that just yearn to  
be sung aloud with loudly and  
proudly in the shower. The rest of the  
CD invokes the same kind of enthu-  
siasm.

Melissa Genova  
Editor



"Strange Con-  
dition" is the sec-  
ond song off the  
CD and also one of  
the single releases.

It is significantly more quiet, but does  
not quite reach "mellow" status. He  
sings "Hand me the letter, Baby/Do not  
leave out the words/Stories and Ciga-  
rettes ruined lives  
of lesser girls/and  
I wanna know/  
'Cos I want you  
to know/and it's a  
strange condi-  
tion/a life in  
prison."

Along with  
great melodies,  
orchestrations,  
the lyrics are  
equally catchy  
and wonderful.

The song "Murray" which is one of the  
most "pop-like" songs on the album  
includes the lyrics "I know a man who  
lives under his covers (uh uh uh uh)/  
lost his mind from the T.V./Now he's  
playing God/And someone told him  
he's no good at it." The song murray

is followed by the lullaby-like  
"June," which includes piano in the  
background. When reviewing his  
musical talents, I cannot forget to  
add that Yorn has a great voice. It's  
a beautiful, and slightly husky, but  
fits his songs perfectly.

The most familiar singer off the  
CD would be "For Nancy ('Cos it al-  
ready is)", which received rotation  
on MTV.

I would argue that there is not  
one bad song on the CD. The  
website (www.PeteYorn.com) offers  
MP3's, videos, and interviews to fa-  
miliarize someone with this artist.  
Because the CD is radio friendly,  
Yorn had the advantage of expand-  
ing his popularity. But Pete Yorn is  
also listener friendly and can appeal  
to many genres.

Other artists who one might con-  
sider checking out similar to the  
Singing/Songwriting males are Ben  
Kweller, Dashboard Confessional,  
and Rufus Wainwright.

Pictures Courtesy of PeteYorn.com